



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

May 24, 2026
Pentecost Sunday

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible. There can be no life without the life-giver, no understanding without the Spirit of truth, no fellowship without the unity of the Spirit, no Christlikeness of character apart from His fruit, and no effective witness without His power. As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead.”

—JOHN STOTT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant to us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and always to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

PSALM: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Ben Sellick

Come, O Creator Spirit Blest

Traditional Hymn

Come, O Creator Spirit blest,
And in our hearts take up thy rest;
Spirit of grace, with heav'nly aid
Come to the souls whom thou hast made.

Thou art the Comforter, we cry,
Sent to the earth from God Most High,
Fountain of Life and Fire of Love,
And our Anointing from above.

Show us the Father, Holy One,
Help us to know th'eternal Son;
Spirit Divine, for evermore
Thee will we trust and thee adore.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Acts 2:1-8, 11

LEADER When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

PEOPLE **And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind,**

LEADER And it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

PEOPLE **And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.**

LEADER And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

PEOPLE **Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.**

LEADER And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

PEOPLE **And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”**

LEADER And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

PEOPLE **—We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”**

HYMN

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

Charles Wesley · Rowland Hugh Prichard

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heav'n, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest:
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
'Til in Heav'n we take our place,
'Til we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you send us the Spirit of power, but we remain captive to fear. You send us the Spirit of truth, but we cling to our illusions. You send us the Spirit of unity, but we produce division. You send us the Spirit of love, but we refuse to serve. Forgive us for resisting the work of your Spirit in our lives. Enable us, by your grace, to live out our identity as your beloved sons and daughters and to bear witness to the reality of your redeeming love. We ask this not upon our deserving it, or even the honesty of our confession, but on the basis of Jesus' finished work on the cross. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

LEADER Hear and receive the good news of the gospel:
 in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LEADER The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL **And also with you.**

HYMN

Holy is the Lord

Chris Tomlin

We stand and lift up our hands,
For the joy of the Lord is our strength.
We bow down and worship him now,
How great, how awesome is he.

And together we sing, everyone sing,

*Holy is the Lord God almighty,
The earth is filled with his glory.
Holy is the Lord God almighty,
The earth is filled with his glory.
The earth is filled with his glory.*

It's rising up all around,
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown.

And together we sing, everyone sing, *Chorus*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

All preschool and elementary age children are invited to the front of the church and will be dismissed to Children's Church with their teachers where they will read, sing, learn, and play in an environment suited to their language and style. Alternatively, children are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary to worship alongside the adults for the duration of the service.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We regularly pray for needs in our congregation, our neighborhood and city, and the world. Please submit prayer requests to centralchurchnyc.org/prayerrequest.

OFFERING

*If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give. For members and regular attenders of Central, give generously as you are able. We give because all we have has been graciously given to us by God. Our offerings express our joyful dependence upon God and our commitment to join God in his work of renewal. You can give online by texting **centralchurchnyc** to **833-737-6262** or visiting centralchurchnyc.org/give.*

OFFERTORY

Love on the Line

Brooke Ligertwood · Scott Ross Ligertwood · Aryel Murphy

You put your love on the line
To bear the weight of sin that was mine,
Washing my river of wrongs
Into the sea of your infinite love.

*With arms held high,
Lord, I give my life,
Knowing I'm found in Christ,
In your love forever.*

*With all I am,
In your grace I stand.
The greatest of all romance,
Love of God,
My Savior.*

Mercy roars like hurricane winds,
Furious love laid waste to my sin. *Chorus*

To the One who has rescued my soul,
To the One who has welcomed me home,
To the One who is Savior of all,
I sing forever. *Chorus*

THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth LM

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:8-10

The passage can be found on page 948 of the pew Bible.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

SERMON

God's Vision for a New Humanity | A Changed Relationship to the Law

Rev. Twaambo Moyo (10 and 11:30 a.m. services)

Robert Cone (5 p.m. service)

THE THANKSGIVING

LEADER

Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE

We lift them up to the Lord.

LEADER

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE

**It is right to give him thanks and
praise.**

LEADER

It is indeed right, our duty and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this, your Table, O Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but solely in your great mercy. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table, but you are the same Lord who always delights in showing mercy. Grant us, therefore gracious Lord, that we who now receive these gifts of bread and wine, according to our Savior's Word, may share in the body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, that we may dwell in him forever and he in us. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus Christ, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I acknowledge that you are so holy and I am so sinful that you had to die for me. Yet you are so merciful and I am so loved that you were willing to die for me. I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what I have done and by what I have failed to do. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, I know that if I do not love you with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength, I shall love something else with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Grant that by loving you first I may be liberated from all lesser loves and loyalties and have you as my first love, my chief good, and my final joy. Amen.

Communion is served with wine and gluten-free bread. Individually wrapped wafers and grape juice are available near each station. Your communion server can point you to them if desired.

COMMUNION HYMN

Behold (Then Sings My Soul)

Joel Houston

Behold the Father's heart, the mystery he lavishes on us.
As deep cries out to deep, oh how desperately he wants us!
The things of earth stand next to him like a candle to the sun.
Unfailing Father, what compares to his great love?

Behold his holy Son, the Lion and the Lamb given to us.
The Word became a man that my soul should know its Savior.
Forsaken for the sake of all mankind, salvation is in his blood.
Jesus, Messiah, the Righteous died for love.
It wasn't over, for he is the Risen One.

*Then sings my soul, then sings my soul,
How great your love is, how great your love is.*

Behold, I have a Friend, the Spirit, breathing holy fire within.
My ever present help, speaking truth when I can't find it.
Light up this broken heart and light my way,
Until my time on earth is done.
Oh Holy Spirit, breathe in me like kingdom come.
Oh Holy Spirit, let your work in me be done. *Chorus*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever,
Amen.

BENEDICTION

We begin our worship with God's gracious invitation, and we conclude with God's blessing, his good Word. It is appropriate to look up and open our palms as we receive the Benediction to symbolize how Jesus Christ lifts our heads and to demonstrate our eagerness to receive God's blessing.

DISMISSAL

LEADER Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Members of our prayer team will be available immediately following the service at the front of the sanctuary to pray confidentially for you about any need or concern you might have. We encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity to receive prayer. ☺

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We welcome anyone who would like to serve in one or more of our volunteer roles, including Sunday Service Teams, Hospitality Team, Children's Ministry, and Youth Ministry. Learn more about volunteer opportunities at centralchurchnyc.org/callforvolunteers.

REQUEST FOR CARE

If you have a financial or practical care need for which you'd like to request assistance from Central, our deacons are readily available to discuss that with you. Please email care@centralchurchnyc.org and detail your situation so one of our deacons can contact you directly.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2026 Projected Expenses: \$4,740,000

Year-to-Date Giving: \$1,826,000

2026 Remaining Need: \$2,914,000